Oil Palm

3328. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil palm is the highest yielder of oil per hectare and also the cheapest;

(b) whether it is also a fact that chemical characteristics of oil palm is also conducive to human health preservation; and

(c) if so, what are the steps being taken by Technology Mission on oil seeds for exploiting the untapped source so as to overcome edible oil shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of schemes have been sanctioned during 1990-91 and 1991-92 in the identified States for the promotion of oil palm cultivation during Eighth Plan which include expansion of seed germinator at Palode, frontline demonstration in Karnataka, demonstration of processing of oil palm in Andhra Pradesh, establishment of three oil palm seed gardens, eleven oil palm nurseries to raise oil palm planting material, comprehensive training programme and distribution of palm seedlings for area expansion programmes.

Central Warehousing Corporation

3329. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Warehousing at Metiaburuz-I has been making profit continuously for the last 10 years;

(b) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation management has been trying to close it down and has advised State Trading Corporation to shift its stocks to other godowns; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action has been taken to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Central Warehouse, Metiabruz-I had been making profits continuously for the last ten year, 1983-84 when it suffered a loss.

(b) So far, there is no proposal to close it down.

(c) Does not arise.

Damage of Newsprint Reels in Central Warehousing Corporation

3330. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether newsprint reels were damaged at Kantapuyran godown under Central Warehousing Corporation. Calcutta region, in 1991 and 1992;

(b) if so. what are the reasons thereof;

(c) whether any damage had to be paid for the lapse; and

(d) what was the action for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The damage to newsprint reels occurred when water entered in one of the five godowns hired by the Central Warehousing Corporation from the Calcutta Port Trust at Kantapukur due to choking of underground drain during heavy rains in Calcutta in August, 1991. Under similar circumstances, water again entered in one of the godowns in June and July, 1992.

(c) Since the stocks are insured, the Corporation was not required to pay for the damage.

(d) Since the damage was due to natural phenomenon of heavy rains, no officer was considered responsible for the damage. Moreover, the repair and maintenance of the godowns is the responsibility of the Calcutta Port Trust who were requested on several occasions to undertake the repairs of the godowns. However, since newsprint stored in August, 1991 could not be fully delivered, no repair to the godowns could be undertaken by the Trust.

Hike in margin money for whole sellers and retailers for levy sugar

3331. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the margin payable to whole sellers and retailers for levy sugar is required to be raised from the present disensation of Rs. 24.88 per quintal to Rs. 37.90 per quintal as the minimum margin payble to functionaries distribution system does not come to a standstill in Rajasthan State;

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Rajasthan had written to the Prime Minister in December 1991 in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken thereon so far and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when the last increase in the margin payable to functionaries was made as against the demand of Rajasthan of Rs. 37.90 per quintal and what steps Government of India propose to take so that the Cooperative Societies do not suffer losses any more in their genuine work and thus save the State from handling entire work by the private dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) The margins payable in the State of Rajasthan for distribution of levy sugar are Rs. 1.15 per quintal for State nominees, Rs. 16.27 per quintal for wholesalers and Rs. 7.46 per quintal (excluding realisation from impty gunny bag) for retailers. The above margins are effective from 1.4.1991 and are normally revised after every three years. The request of Government of Rajasthan for enhancement of the aforesaid margins is under consideration.

3332. [*Transferred to the 11th August*, 1992.]

Import of wheat

3333. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Miniter of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat imported in the last five years and its landed price in India; and

(b) what was its issue price for internal trade in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No wheat was imported during the years 1987-88, 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92. 20.11 lakh MTs of wheat valued at Rs. 525.83 crores was imported during 1988-89.

(b) Imported wheat as well as wheat procured indigenously are issued at the same Central Issue Prices by Food Corporation of India (ex-FCI godowns) to States and UTs for the Public Distribution System. The Issue Prices of wheat effective from 25-3-88 and 1-5-90 were Rs. 204 per quintal and Rs. 234 per quintal, respectively.